Research says genes dictate who turns out a tyrant

Selfish dictators may owe their behaviours partly to their genes, according to researchers at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, who have found a link between a gene and ruthless behaviour, in an exercise they call the 'dictator game'.

The study might help to explain the money-grabbing tendencies of those with a Machiavellian streak – from national dictators down to 'little Hitlers' found in workplaces the world over.

Thus we have naive yet arrogant dictators with no sense of the inappropriateness of their actions and attitudes, who have cropped up from the Roman emperors, through to Benito Mussolini, Saddam Hussein & Robert Mugabe